

Message Text

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INFO: RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 1888

AMCONSUL BREMEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT TO BERLIN TEACHER EDUCATION LAW

REF: BERLIN A-147

SUMMARY: OVER PRO FORMA OPPOSITION OF CDU AND FDP, BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JUNE 28 PASSED SENAT PROPOSAL (LOEFFLER PLAN) FOR AMENDMENT OF TEACHER EDUCATION LAW. VICE PRESIDENT WESEL OF FREE UNIVERSITY IMMEDIATELY RESIGNED IN PROTEST. UNPOPULARITY OF DECISION IN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY AT LARGE WAS EVIDENCED BY SIZEABLE LATE AFTERNOON STUDENT DEMONSTRATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THIRD AND FINAL READING OF LOEFFLER BILL IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON JUNE 28 WAS BRIEF, UNCONTROVERSIAL, AND GENERALLY DEVOID OF ANIMATION. CDU REPRESENTATIVES UNDERSCORED THEIR BASIC SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT OF TEACHER EDUCATION LAW IN DIRECTION OF INCREASED STATE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION, BUT REJECTED FINAL SENAT PROPOSAL ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOUNDATIONS OF DUBIOUS LEGALITY AND GENERAL IMPRACTICALITY.

FDP SPOKESMAN RAISED STRONGER OBJECTIONS, CLAIMING SENAT HAD NOT DEMONSTRATED NEED FOR AMENDMENT OF THE LAW AND CHARACTERIZING FINAL PROPOSAL AS HASTY AND ILL-CONTRIVED. AFTER HOUR-AND-A-HALF DEBATE, BILL WAS PASSED BY VOICE VOTE. CDU AND FDP MEMBERS, WHO NOTED THAT SEVERAL LEFT-WING SPD REPRESENTATIVES ABSTAINED, NONETHELESS TURNED DOWN HOUSE PRESIDENT'S OFFER TO SUBJECT BILL TO RECORDED BALLOT. IN FINAL FORM, AMENDMENT TO TEACHER EDUCATION LAW IS CONSISTENT WITH SPD REVISION OF JUNE 14 (REFAIR): I.E., EXAMINATION CANDIDATE COULD SELECT ONE OF TWO PROFESSOR-EXAMINERS, AND WOULD BE ABLE TO REJECT WITHOUT CAUSE FIRST CHOICE OF LANDESPRUEFUNSAMT FOR OTHER.

2. FOLLOWING VOTE IN HOUSE, VICE PRESIDENT WESEL OF FREE UNIVERSITY, WHOSE POPULARITY HAD LONG BEEN SLIPPING, IMMEDIATELY ANNOUNCED RESIGNATION. IN LETTER TO GOVERNING MAYOR, WESEL EXCORIATED PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY FOR HAVING PURSUED POLITICAL GOALS WITH LITTLE CONSIDERATION FOR THOSE WHO WOULD BE PRIMARILY AFFECTED BY AMENDMENT. WHILE PRESIDENT KREIBICH OF FREE UNIVERSITY EXPRESSED REGRET AT DEPARTURE OF WESEL, CENTRIST UNIVERSITY GROUPS WASTED NO TIME IN EXPRESSING THEIR SATISFACTION AND RECOMMENDED THAT KREIBICH AND OTHER OF HIS ASSOCIATES FOLLOW SUIT. PROFESSOR JAECKEL OF OTTO SUHR INSTITUTE, A MODERATE LIBERAL, SOME TIME AGO PRIVATELY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SUCCEED WESEL, AND IS WIDELY REGARDED AS FRONTRUNNER.

3. ESTIMATED 6,200 STUDENTS, ASSISTANCES, AND UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES DEMONSTRATED AGAINST PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT DOWNTOWN LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 28. SPEAKERS DEMANDED ABROGATION OF "REACTIONARY LOEFFLER PLAN" AND CALLED FOR "STRUGGLE AGAINST THE REACTIONARY EDUCATIONAL POLICIES OF THE SPD-SENAT." FURTHER PROTESTS WITHIN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY CAN UNDOUBTEDLY BE EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE. KLEIN

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